

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus for forming and outputting image data on the basis of data received via a network, comprising:

a receiving means for receiving unit adapted to receive data composed of a predetermined character code;

an extracting means for analyzing unit adapted to analyze the data received by said receiving means unit and extracting to extract binary data encoded by the character code; and

a converting means for converting unit adapted to convert the binary data extracted by said extracting means unit into image data;

a first determining unit adapted to determine whether the binary data is convertible into image data; and

a control unit adapted to transmit, if said first determining unit determines that the binary data is inconvertible, the binary data to an external apparatus and to request the external apparatus to convert the binary data into a format convertible by said communication apparatus.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein if said extracting ~~means~~ unit extracts a plurality of types of binary data, said control ~~means~~ unit selects only binary data found to be inconvertible by said first determining ~~means~~ unit and requests ~~said~~ the external apparatus to convert the selected binary data.

A, 4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said control ~~means~~ unit requests ~~said~~ the external apparatus to convert into binary data encoded by ITU-T recommendation T.4 or image data encoded by a predetermined encoding method ~~such as JPEG etc.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said first determining ~~means~~ unit determines on the basis of information pertaining to the binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data in received character data.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein said first determining ~~means~~ unit determines on the basis of information pertaining to the binary data, which is extracted from header information of received MIME data.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: A communication apparatus for forming and outputting image data on the basis of data received via a network, comprising:~~

a receiving unit adapted to receive data composed of a predetermined character code;

an extracting unit adapted to analyze the data received by said receiving unit and to extract binary data encoded by the character code;

a converting unit adapted to convert the binary data extracted by said extracting unit into image data;

second a first determining means for determining adapted to determine,
during a receiving session by said receiving means unit, whether the binary data is convertible into image data; and

a first informing means for informing unit adapted to inform a source of the received data of the determination result from said ~~second~~ first determining means unit during the receiving session.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said receiving means unit receives data by an Electric mail protocol; and

said first informing means unit informs the source by using a response signal in the Electric mail protocol.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a second informing ~~means for transmitting~~ unit adapted to transmit, if said second determining ~~means~~ unit determines that the data is inconvertible, a message concerning the information transmitted by said first informing ~~means~~ unit in another session after the receiving session is completed.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

10 a second determining ~~means for determining~~ unit adapted to determine a language type of ~~said~~ the source of the received binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data,

wherein said second informing ~~means~~ unit transmits a message corresponding to the language type determined by said second determining ~~means~~ unit.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a third determining ~~means for determining~~ unit adapted to transmit, during the receiving session by said receiving ~~means~~ unit, whether the binary data encoded by the character code can be decoded,

wherein said first informing means unit informs said the source of the received data of the determination result from said third determining means unit during the receiving session.

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12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said receiving means unit receives data by an Electric mail protocol, and said first informing means unit informs by using a response signal in the Electric mail protocol.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a third informing ~~means for transmitting~~ unit adapted to transmit, if said third determining means unit determines that the data is inconvertible, a message concerning the information transmitted by said first informing means unit in another session after the receiving session is completed.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

~~second a language determining means for determining~~ unit adapted to determine a language type of said the source of the received binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data,

wherein said third informing ~~means~~ unit transmits a message corresponding to the language type determined by said ~~second~~ language determining ~~means~~ unit.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of forming and outputting image data on the basis of data received via a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving data composed of a predetermined character code:

analyzing the received data and extracting binary data encoded by the character code:

converting the extracted binary data into image data; [[and]]

determining whether the binary data is convertible into image data and outputting a first determination result;

transmitting, if the first determination result indicates that the binary data is inconvertible, the binary data to an external apparatus and requesting said external apparatus to convert the binary data into a format convertible by an apparatus comprising the method; and

outputting the converted image data.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[16]] 15, wherein if a plurality of types of binary data are extracted, only binary data found to be

inconvertible by the first determination result is selected, and ~~said~~ the external apparatus is requested to convert the selected binary data.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~said~~ the external apparatus is requested to convert into binary data encoded by ITU-T recommendation T.4 or image data encoded by a predetermined encoding method ~~such as~~ PEG etc.

A1 19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the determination for outputting the first determination result is performed on the basis of information pertaining to the binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data in received character data.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 15, wherein the determination for outputting the first determination result is performed on the basis of information pertaining to the binary data, which is extracted from header information of received MIME data.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:~~ A method of forming and outputting image data on the basis of data received via a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving data composed of a predetermined character code;

analyzing the received data and extracting binary data encoded by the
character code;
converting the extracted binary data into image data;
determining, during a receiving session by receiving ~~means~~ step, whether
the binary data is convertible into image data, and outputting a second determination result;
and
informing a source of the received data of the second determination result
during the receiving session.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein
said receiving ~~means receives~~ step includes receiving data by an Electric
mail protocol; and
the second determination result is transmitted by using a response signal in
the Electric mail protocol.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21 further
comprising the step of:
transmitting, if the second determination result indicates that the data is
inconvertible, a message concerning the second determination result in another session
after the receiving session is completed.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising the step of:

determining a language type of said source of the received binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data,

wherein a message corresponding to the determined language type is transmitted in another session.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of:

A, determining, during the receiving session ~~[[by]]~~ of said receiving ~~means~~ step, whether the binary data encoded by the character code can be decoded, and outputting a third determination result,

wherein ~~said~~ the source of the received data is informed of the third determination result during the receiving session.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said receiving ~~means receives~~ step includes receiving data by an Electric mail protocol, and

said ~~first informing means informs~~ step includes informing the source by using a response signal in the Electric mail protocol.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of:

transmitting, if the third determination result indicates that the data is inconvertible, a message concerning the third determination result in another session after the receiving session is completed.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of:

At determining a language type of ~~said~~ the source of the received binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data,

wherein a message corresponding to the determined language type is transmitted in another session.

29. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer of a communication apparatus for forming and outputting image data on the basis of data received via a network, said computer program comprising the steps of:

a process of receiving data composed of a predetermined character code; a process of analyzing the received data and extracting binary data encoded by the character code;

a process of converting the extracted binary data into image data; [[and]]

a process of determining whether the binary data is convertible into image data and outputting a first determination result;

a process of transmitting, if the first determination result indicates that the binary data is inconvertible, the binary data to an external apparatus and requesting the external apparatus to convert the binary data into a format convertible by an apparatus comprising the medium; and

a process of outputting the converted image data.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 29, wherein if a plurality of types of binary data are extracted, only binary data found to be inconvertible by the first determination result is selected, and ~~said~~ the external apparatus is requested to convert the selected binary data.

32. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein ~~said~~ the external apparatus is requested to convert into binary data encoded by ITU-T recommendation T.4 or image data encoded by a predetermined encoding method ~~such as JPEG etc.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim ~~[[30]]~~ 29, wherein the determination for outputting the first determination result is performed on the

basis of information pertaining to the binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data in received character data.

34. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim [[30]] 29, wherein the determination for outputting the first determination result is performed on the basis of information pertaining to the binary data, which is extracted from header information of received MIME data.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The medium according to claim 30, further comprising the steps of:~~ A storage medium storing a computer program to be executed by a computer of a communication apparatus for forming and outputting image data on the basis of data received via a network, said computer program comprising the steps of:

a process of receiving data composed of a predetermined character code;

a process of analyzing the received data and extracting binary data encoded by the character code;

a process of converting the extracted binary data into image data;

a process of determining, during a receiving session by a receiving means process, whether the binary data is convertible into image data, and outputting a second determination result; and

a process of informing a source of the received data of the second determination result during the receiving session.

36. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 35, wherein said receiving ~~means~~ process receives data by an Electric mail protocol; and the second determination result is transmitted by using a response signal in the Electric mail protocol.

37. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 35, further comprising the step of:

A1 ~~a process of~~ transmitting, if the second determination result indicates that the data is inconvertible, a message concerning the second determination result in another session after the receiving session is completed.

38. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 37, further comprising the step of:

~~a process of~~ determining a language type of ~~said~~ the source of the received binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data, wherein a message corresponding to the determined language type is transmitted in another session.

39. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

~~a process of~~ determining, during the receiving session by said receiving ~~means process~~, whether the binary data encoded by the character code can be decoded, and outputting a third determination result; and

~~a process of~~ informing ~~said the~~ source of the received data of the third determination result during the receiving session.

40. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 39, wherein said receiving ~~means process~~ receives data by an Electric mail protocol, and said ~~first~~ informing ~~means process~~ informs the source by using a response signal in the Electric mail protocol.

41. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 39, further comprising the step of:

~~a process of~~ transmitting, if the third determination result indicates that the data is inconvertible, a message concerning the third determination result in another session after the receiving session is completed.

42. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 41, further comprising the step of:

~~a process of~~ determining a language type of ~~said the~~ source of the received binary data, which is extracted from a character data portion other than the binary data,

wherein a message corresponding to the determined language type is transmitted in another session.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 43,~~A communication apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit adapted to receive electronic mail;

an extracting unit adapted to analyze the electronic mail received by said receiving unit and to extract binary data attached to the electronic mail;

a converting unit adapted to convert the binary data extracted by said extracting unit into image data; and

an output unit adapted to output the image data converted by said converting unit,

wherein if said converting ~~means~~ unit detects that the binary data is inconvertible into image data, the binary data is transmitted to an external apparatus, and ~~said the~~ external apparatus is requested to convert the binary data into a format convertible by said converting ~~means~~ unit.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 43,~~A communication apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit adapted to receive electronic mail;

an extracting unit adapted to analyze the electronic mail received by said receiving unit and to extract binary data attached to the electronic mail;

a converting unit adapted to convert the binary data extracted by said extracting unit into image data; and

an output unit adapted to output the image data converted by said converting unit,

A1 wherein if during a receiving session of the electronic mail said converting means unit detects that the binary data is inconvertible into image data, a source of the electronic mail is informed of a conversion error during the receiving session.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 46, A~~
communication apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit adapted to receive electronic mail;

an extracting unit adapted to analyze the electronic mail received by said receiving unit and to extract binary data attached to the electronic mail;

a converting unit adapted to convert the binary data extracted by said extracting unit into image data; and

an output unit adapted to output the image data converted by said converting unit,

wherein a language type of ~~said~~ the source is determined from header information of the electronic mail received by said receiving ~~means~~ unit, and electronic mail indicating the conversion error is generated by a message corresponding to the determined language type.

48. (Canceled).

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 48,~~ A method of forming and outputting image data on the basis of received electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving electronic mail;

analyzing the received electronic mail and extracting binary data attached to the electronic mail;

converting the extracted binary data into image data; and

outputting the converted image data,

wherein if the binary data is found to be inconvertible into image data, the binary data is transmitted to an external apparatus, and ~~said~~ the external apparatus is requested to convert the binary data into a format convertible by an apparatus comprising the method.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 48,~~ A method of forming and outputting image data on the basis of received electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving electronic mail;

analyzing the received electronic mail and extracting binary data attached to the electronic mail;

converting the extracted binary data into image data and outputting the converted image data,

wherein if during a receiving session of the electronic mail the binary data is found to be inconvertible into image data, a source of the electronic mail is informed of a conversion error during the receiving session.

51. (Canceled).

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 51,~~ A method of forming and outputting image data on the basis of received electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving electronic mail;

analyzing the received electronic mail and extracting binary data attached to the electronic mail;

converting the extracted binary data into image data; and

outputting the converted image data,

wherein a language type of ~~said~~ the source is determined from header information of the received electronic mail, and electronic mail indicating the conversion error is generated by a message corresponding to the determined language type.

53 - 57. (Canceled).

58. A communication apparatus comprising:

- (a) an input means for inputting unit adapted to input data:
- (b) a first determining means for determining unit adapted to determine

whether the input data is non-image data or image data:

(c) a second determining means for determining unit adapted to determine whether the non-image data is convertible into image data; [[and]]

(d) a processing means for performing unit adapted to perform a converting process if the non-image data is convertible; and

(e) a sending unit adapted to send a conversion request to another apparatus if the determination result from said second determining unit indicates that the non-image data is inconvertible.

59 - 68. (Canceled).

69. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 68;~~ A communication apparatus comprising:

an input unit adapted to input data;

a first determining unit adapted to determine whether the input data is non-image data or image-data;

a second determining unit adapted to determine whether the non-image data is convertible into image data;

a processing unit adapted to perform a converting process if the non-image data is convertible;

wherein said a content analyzing means divides unit adapted to detect a language type and an address of a source from the electronic mail and to divide, by using MIME header information, received electronic information composed of a character code into a character code portion and a binary data portion converted into the character code; and

an error report informing unit adapted to transmit, if an error to be reported to the source occurs during the course of outputting the image data, an error report describing a content of the error by a character code corresponding to the detected language type to the source address detected by said content analyzing unit.

70 - 72. (Canceled).